

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

James G. Tribble

Appl. No.: To be assigned

Filed: (herewith)

For: **Metal/Wood Bat Connection
Assembly**

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 911560/00003DIV

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 are based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present patent application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will review art of record in all 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority documents.

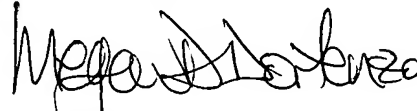
- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$210.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).
 - ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan D. Dortenzo', written over the printed name.

Megan D. Dortenzo
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Date: June 20, 2003

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FORM PTO-1449 <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 911560/00003DIV	APPLICATION NO. to be assigned
	APPLICANT James G. Tribble	
	FILING DATE June 18, 2003	GROUP To be assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	1,509,733	September 23, 1924	J.H. Langford			August 23, 1921
	AB1	2,195,681	April 2, 1940	F.E. Robarge	273	72	September 19, 1938
	AC1	3,779,551	December 18, 1973	Wilson	273	72	December 10, 1971
	AD1	3,877,698	April 15, 1975	Volpe	273	72 R	November 28, 1973
	AE1	4,000,895	January 4, 1977	Scott, Jr. et al.	273	72	August 18, 1975
	AF1	4,213,607	July 22, 1980	Fujii	273	72	May 10, 1978
	AG1	4,714,251	December 22, 1987	Cook	273	72 R	January 6, 1986
	AH1	4,720,104	January 19, 1988	DiSieno	273	67 R	September 8, 1986
	AI1	5,409,214	April 25, 1995	Cook	273	72 R	September 7, 1994
	AJ1	5,593,158	January 14, 1997	Filice et al.	473	520	December 21, 1995
	AK1	5,695,416	December 9, 1997	Christian	473	562	September 24, 1996
	AL1	6,045,467	April 4, 2000	Anderson	473	568	April 9, 1998
	AM1	6,432,006	August 13, 2002	Tribble	473	564	December 14, 1999

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)			
	AQ		Excerpts of " www.eastonsports.com " and " www.baseballexp.com " websites (6 pages)
	AR		
	AS		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.	